

---

**HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS**

2023 Regular Session

Substitute for Original House Bill No. 159 by Representative Farnum as proposed by the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

---

**This document reflects the content of a substitute bill but is not in a bill form; page numbers in this document DO NOT correspond to page numbers in the substitute bill itself.**

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:192, 193(H), and 198(A), to enact R.S. 18:191.1, and to repeal R.S. 18:193(B) and (I), relative to the annual canvass of persons registered to vote; to provide for criteria for the annual canvass; to provide for the duties of the Department of State; to provide relative to the address confirmation notice; to provide relative to the inactive list of voters; to provide for updating voter registration information; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 18:192, 193(H), and 198(A) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 18:191.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§191.1. Address confirmation notice

For the purposes of this Part, the Department of State shall develop an address confirmation notice which shall include a postage prepaid and preaddressed return notice sent by forwardable mail and shall inform the registrant about his voting rights under the address confirmation process. The address confirmation notice shall be submitted by the Department of State to the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs for review.

§192. Annual canvass; costs

A.(1)(a) No later than June thirtieth ~~in each parish~~, the registrar of voters of each parish in conjunction with the Department of State shall annually canvass the names of the registrants in all precincts in the parish. Failure of the registrar to conduct an annual canvass as provided in this ~~Paragraph~~ Subsection shall constitute willful misconduct relating to his official duty for the purposes of R.S. 18:53. The

Department of State shall use the United States Postal Service or its licensee to verify the names and addresses of the registrants in all precincts in the state. A verification by the United States Postal Service or its licensee shall constitute a valid canvass of the registered voter.

~~(b)~~ (2) In conducting the verification, if the United States Postal Service or its licensee provides a corrected address, the Department of State shall furnish the corrected address to the appropriate registrar of voters. Upon receiving a corrected address inside the parish, either the Department of State ~~may make the change~~ or the registrar of voters shall update the voter's address on the statewide registration system and ~~the registrar of voters may make the change on his records~~. If a change ~~is made, the registrar shall~~ mail a new voter identification information card to the voter using the corrected address provided and an address confirmation ~~card~~ notice as provided in R.S. 18:193. ~~In the event~~ If the new voter identification information card using the corrected address is returned to the registrar and the voter has failed to return the address confirmation ~~card~~ notice, the registrar shall consider the address not corrected. His records should be changed to reflect the prior address on file for that voter. If the corrected address is outside the parish, the registrar of voters shall not make the change on his records and shall send an address confirmation notice ~~card~~ as provided in R.S. 18:193.

~~(2)~~ ~~For a registrant whose address was not verified or whose corrected address is outside the parish, the registrar shall send an address confirmation card as set forth in R.S. 18:193.~~

~~B:~~ (3) The parish governing authority shall provide to the registrar of voters the funding necessary for the mailing of new voter identification information cards in the conduct of the canvass.

B.(1) No later than June thirtieth, the Department of State shall conduct an annual canvass as provided in this Subsection. Using information available in the state voter registration computer system, the secretary of state shall identify registrants who meet all the following criteria:

(a) The registrant's name did not appear with a corrected address provided by the United States Postal Service or its licensee pursuant to Subsection A of this Section.

(b) The registrant failed to engage in any of the following activities in the past ten years: vote in an election; make an application for voter registration; request an absentee ballot; validly sign a petition submitted to the registrar of voters for certification pursuant to law; change a name, address, or party affiliation or nonaffiliation; make any other change in registration; or participate in the nursing home program.

(2) The Department of State shall send an address confirmation notice to each identified registrant and transfer the registrant to the inactive list of voters.

~~C. For the purposes of this Section, "residence address" shall mean the registrant's place of residence except in the case of a registrant to whom the United States Postal Service will not deliver mail to his place of residence, it shall mean the registrant's mailing address.~~

§193. Challenge and cancellation of registration; notice; procedures

\* \* \*

H. If the registrar determines that a voter's registration has been cancelled through error of the registrar or the Department of State, the registrar shall reinstate the voter's registration as though the cancellation had never occurred and shall notify the registrant of the reinstatement.

\* \* \*

§198. Change of residence or change in address; inquiry by registrar; change of records

A. Whenever a registrar has reason to believe that a registrant has changed his residence within the parish or that a change has occurred in the registrant's mailing address within the parish, the registrar shall mail the an address confirmation ~~card~~ notice to the registrant as provided in R.S. 18:193 as provided in R.S. 18:193(B) ~~to the registrant~~, but shall not place the voter on the inactive list of voters.

\* \* \*

Section 2. R.S. 18:193(B) and (I) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

Section 3. In the case of any conflict between the provisions of this Act and the provisions of any other Act of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature, the provisions of this Act shall supercede and control regardless of the order of passage.

Section 4. This Act shall become effective on March 31, 2024.

---

## DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

---

HB Draft

2023 Regular Session

**Abstract:** Requires the Dept. of State to conduct a annual canvass of registered voters.

Present law requires each registrar of voters to conduct an annual canvass of registered voters no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> in order to update voter registration records. Elements of the annual canvass include:

- (1) A requirement that the Dept. of State use the U.S. Postal Service or its licensee to verify names and addresses of registered voters.
- (2) A requirement that the registrar of voters send an address confirmation card to each registrant whose address is not verified or whose corrected address is outside of the parish and place the names of such registrants on the inactive list of voters.

Proposed law requires that either the registrar of voters or the Dept. of State send address confirmation cards.

Proposed law further requires the Dept. of State to conduct an annual supplemental canvass no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> in order to update voter registration records. Elements of the supplemental canvass include:

- (1) A requirement that the secretary of state identify registered voters for whom there is not a corrected address and who have not participated in an election, updated their registration information, or taken other specified actions in the previous 10 years.
- (2) A requirement that the secretary of state send such persons an address confirmation notice and place the names of such registrants on the inactive list of voters.

Effective on March 31, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 18:192, 193(H), and 198(A); Adds R.S. 18:191.1; Repeals R.S. 18:193(B) and (I))